

## CRISIS IN IRELAND

Of the "Plan of Campaign" Until it was

LONDON, Dec. 10.—Mr. Parnell, who has just arrived in London, said to-day that he was slowly but firmly recovering from his recent gastric attack. His doctors will permit him to resume his Parliamentary duties on the opening of the session, if he promises to be careful. Mr. Parnell does not intend at present to express an opinion on the "Plan of Campaign," wishing first to go to Ireland and to consult with the promoters of the plan, whom he has not seen since the end of the last session of Parliament. He also desires to obtain fuller knowledge in regard to various matters before his opponents on the subject. He declares that the "Plan of Campaign" has not been devised, or even projected, until it had been published. Mr. Parnell will go to Ireland shortly.

**"Soldiers of Ireland."**  
DUBLIN, Dec. 19.—A meeting is to be held at Kilrush to protest against Van der Meer's eviction processes. The call for the meeting is printed on handbills and concludes as follows: "People of Kilrush at the most important crisis in our country's history you are invited to become soldiers of Ireland under the banner of the National League."  
The Commoners Deasy, Harrington and Sheehan spoke at Killarney to-day, denouncing the action of the Government. Mr. Harrington condemned the absence of priests from the meeting.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The *Times* says: The Gladstonian party threaten to split upon the question conniving at defiance of law. What could be more opportune than such a retrograde movement as Mr. Parnell's chilling treatment of his colleagues seems admirably fitted to produce?"

**A Measure of Safety.**

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The proprietors of *United Ireland* have had their books, pa-

**Downfall Predicted.**  
LONDON, December 19.—Commoner Fanner, speaking at Coachford, Cork, to-day, prophesied the downfall of the government within three months. Commoner Hooper declared that the tenants were capable of effecting an honest combination with or without the "Plan of Campaign." There were no priests at the meeting.

Seventeen Smugglers Killed.  
VIENNA, Dec. 10.—An avalanche has killed a band of seventeen smugglers who were hiding near Vienna.

**NAILS AND TACKS.**  
The business in the East at an Ebb.—A Gloomy Outlook.  
PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 13.—E. De Forest Shelton, President of the Shelton Light Hardware Company, of Birmingham, Conn., one of the largest manufacturing establishments of the East, is stopping at the Continental. Speaking of the many failures in the East and of the low prices for light hardware, Mr. Shelton said: "The trade in this country is scarcely beyond production, but the real cause of the

ious prices is the many men who have gone into the business in the last year or so. They are not doing well. The reason they are producing, taking the instance of trucks, is that the price of the trucks is 20 percent below the cost of production, and the manufacturers are really driving their capital among the streets. They are not going to sell now and sell trucks at current prices would be as reckless as attempting to make and sell gold dollars for 80 cents. There is no going to be a radical chance in a few weeks. The hardware manufacturers will either fall or give up the business in January.

It is against reason, for a business man to make, sell and ship goods for less than the cost of production. The hardware manufacturers are doing in New England. They are just beginning to see it in that light, and I feel confident that when they examine their balance sheets on January 1st, they will find that they are in a very advanced state. In the past three weeks raw material has gone up about 15 percent, and the price of trucks is unchanged, and the rail rate is the same. I have in on my mind the fact that the hardware manufacturers will lose next month in the same way.

the same reason. Twelve hundred tack machines can produce all the necessary tacks for the United States and export trade, and yet there are over twice that

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Young men and women, aged, and a number of Southern Illinois and Northern Ohio and Indiana counties report the plant as looking feebly. Nine-tenths of the country report, however, throughout the entire belt that the crop is in good to fine condition. The movement of corn is reported to be moderately free in Missouri, but slow in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois. Five Illinois and ten Iowa counties report this week that the corn supply is short as to prevent any shipment or is entirely exhausted.